

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 4, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIX-0265/SA-61)

TO: Charles Craig - KEWN-4
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: The Umatilla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (Project) includes the Stroud Bank Stabilization Project which consists of approximately 500 feet of waterfront, located in the Umatilla River downstream of the confluence of Mission Creek, Oregon.

Project No: 87-100-01

Work Order No: 00002240/01

Budget No: F3102

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.3 Restoration of Channelized River and Stream Reaches; 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams; 1.6 Install Large Woody Debris Structures; 1.7 Install other Habitat Complexity Structures; 1.8 Bank Protection through Vegetation Management; 1.9 Structural Bank Protection using Bioengineering Methods; 1.17 Rearing Habitat Enhancements; 2.1 Maintain Healthy Riparian Plant Communities; 2.6 Native Seed Inventories; 3.1 Plant/Protect Vegetative/Conservation Cover; 6.1 Deferred grazing; 6.14 Vegetation Stabilization: Critical Area Planting; 6.15 Vegetation Stabilization: Brush/Weed Management

Location: On the Umatilla River downstream of the confluence of Mission Creek, Umatilla County, Oregon in the Upper Umatilla River Basin.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR).

Description of the Proposed Action: The goal of this project is to work in cooperation with the CTUIR Habitat Program to protect and restore the riparian corridor on the Upper Umatilla River. Working with the private landowner, the riparian area would be protected by limiting grazing, farming and logging. Increased bank and channel stabilization would help improve aquatic habitat and channel characteristics.

Analysis: The compliance checklist was completed by the CTUIR and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The main concern addressed by this proposed action is bank erosion and undercutting, potential loss of private property and possible damage to structures within the floodplain. In an effort to restore the riparian corridor, the landowner has signed an easement that will protect the riparian area and prevent certain land uses including grazing, farming and logging for perpetuity. Specific project

objectives include: to arrest bank undercutting and mass wasting along the left streambank immediately downstream of Mission Creek; to improve floodplain connection with instream flow of the Umatilla River; to improve channel morphology through reduction of channel width and definition of the thalweg resulting in a reduced width/depth ratio; and to improve instream and aquatic habitat through an increase in pool habitat, hiding cover and riparian vegetation.

The goal of this project is to protect and enhance riparian ecosystems by restricting livestock, restoring native plant communities, and improving fish habitat and channel characteristics. Plant growth will provide additional bank stabilization, encourage pool development, increase insect drop for fish, aid in the reduction of water temperatures, improve bank storage, and accelerate the development of natural floodplain and channel function. Riparian improvements will provide multiple benefits for wildlife including cover, roosting, nesting and feeding areas for birds, shelter and food for mammals, and increased humidity and shade (thermal cover) for all animals. Project implementation includes seeding of native grasses and trees/shrubs at newly disturbed sites with post-project maintenance and erosion monitoring.

Construction equipment impacts will be minimized with spill prevention and remediation measures taken. All activities will occur with the summer instream work window (July 15 - September 30) when there is a low likelihood fish will be present due to late summer channel dewatering. Any short-term sediment loads caused by the placement of rock and logs would be minimized by working during the instream work window, and disturbing the soil and vegetation as little as possible. All disturbed ground would be seeded with native grass seed mixtures. Measures to minimize sediment movement also include planting, bank stabilization and wood debris placement.

The only known threatened or endangered species present in the project areas are Canada lynx, bald eagle, bull trout, and Middle Columbia River steelhead. Biological assessments (BAs) were provided by BPA and the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries – Habitat Enhancement Project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to conduct Section 7 ESA consultation proceedings. NMFS and USFWS concur with BPA's finding that the proposed projects as described in the BA's, would either have "no affect" or "may affect but not likely adversely affect" the listed species or proposed critical habitat, except for the electroshocking and transporting of fish to be done under Section 10 CTUIR National Production M&E Program Permit.

The CTUIR Cultural Resources Staff, prior to implementation of any ground-disturbing actions, would provide a report documenting the presence or absence of cultural resources within project areas to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and BPA. Contingent upon satisfactory completion of the Cultural Resources Survey and concurrence by the SHPO, these proposed actions would meet the requirements of NEPA.

Project: Stroud Bank Stabilization Project

| Proposed Action: | Impacts: |
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| Two instream structures types will be installed with LWD added for habitat enhancement. | Low to minimal impact. 1. Eight rootwad revetments will be installed along the right streambank by keying into the streambank perpendicular to flow and angled slightly upstream. Large boulders will be used as ballast on top of the footer log and bole. Bole should be at |

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| | <p>least 15 feet in length.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A modified boulder vane with a hooked end, also called a J-vane, will be buried into the channel bed below the elevation of the substrate and angled upstream. A second layer of boulder will be placed on the upstream side at a slightly higher elevation. The top surface of the structure at the bank is approximately 2/3-bankfull stage and is at a 1.5% slope from the bank to the center of the channel. The structure is keyed into the bank approximately 8 feet. The channel end of the structure is hooked downstream in order to form a pocket pool and define the thalweg away from the bank. 3. Large woody debris (Douglas Fir or Ponderosa Pine) will be keyed into the foundation layer for aquatic habitat enhancement. A track-mounted excavator with an opposable thumb equivalent to a Caterpillar 320 or better, will be used to move the large rock and aid in interplanting the structures and disturbed banks. An excavator is recommended for this work due to its ability to work around existing vegetation and minimize damage to instream habitat and surrounding terrain. <p>Revegetation of riparian areas, coupled with changes in other management activities, should decrease sediment loads, decrease chemical contamination, increase bank stability and improve instream shade and water temperatures. All construction activities occur during the summer instream work window and will adhere to Clean Water Act standards (conduct work in dry weather, minimize turbidity, avoid disturbing soil and vegetation, reseed any scarred areas, prevent petroleum products from entering the waterway, etc.) All potential impacts would be short-term and discountable.</p> |
| Trench and sting-in willow and red osier dogwood cuttings within the floodplain along approximately 1.5 miles of Couse creek conservation easement, plant native grasses, shrubs and trees | <p>Low to no impact.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanized planting methods uses excavator to trench and sting-in cuttings. Native plant materials would be placed in the riparian areas during the summer instream work window (July 1 - October 15) when the channel is expected to be dry, otherwise mechanized equipment will only be in the channel when it is necessary to cross the stream. 2. CTUIR fisheries biologist or technician will be on site to monitor implementation. 3. All disturbed areas will be planted with native grasses to promote rapid riparian vegetative recovery. |
| Annual monitoring and data collection. | <p>No impact.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photo-points, water temperatures, and salmonid utilization of the project area data would be collected for three years following project completion and reported to NMFS annually. |

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Section 7.6: Habitat Goal, Policies and Objectives, Section 7.7: Cooperative Habitat Protection and Improvement with Private Landowners, and Section 7.8: State, Federal and Tribal Habitat Improvements, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Patricia R. Smith
Environmental Specialist - KEC

CONCUR: _____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: _____

Attachments:
NEPA Compliance Checklist

cc:
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